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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: IDF SWEEP ARRESTS 52 PIJ MILITANTS IN
THE WEST BANK, THREE PALESTINIANS INJURED IN GAZA -- JUNE
21, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: The IDF arrested 52 PIJ activists in the West Bank on June 20, including 25 in Bethlehem and a senior PIJ leader, Ra'id al-Hijawi, in Jenin, according to PA security sources. Eight Palestinians were injured in clashes with the IDF near Yatta village, south of Hebron, in anti-barrier protests June 20, and the IDF shot and injured a Palestinian who was a passenger in a car that allegedly failed to stop at a checkpoint near Hebron the same day. PA President Abbas and Israeli PM Sharon met in Jerusalem June 21 to discuss the security situation, prisoner releases, city handovers, freedom of movement, home demolitions in Jerusalem, and Israeli settlement expansion, according to Palestinian media. In Gaza, two Palestinians were injured June 21 in Khan Yunis during an exchange of fire between IDF soldiers and Palestinians militants, and one Palestinian was lightly injured June 20 by IDF soldiers stationed northwest of Khan Yunis who opened fire after they were targeted by a Molotov cocktail. Militants fired some 15 mortars shells in seven separate attacks in the Gaza Strip overnight June 20-21. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Injuries: Eight Palestinians were injured in clashes with the IDF near Yatta village, south of Hebron, in anti-barrier protests, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Injury: The IDF shot and injured a Palestinian who was a passenger in a car that allegedly failed to stop at a checkpoint near Hebron on June 20, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested 52 PIJ activists in the West Bank on June 20, including 25 in Bethlehem and a senior PIJ leader, Ra'id al-Hijawi, in Jenin, according to PA security sources.

-- Arrests: PA security forces arrested 12 militants in Bayt Rima that had earlier participated in armed demonstrations and shootings of businesses in Ramallah, according to PA security sources.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested a Palestinian outside Ramallah June 20 who allegedly attempted to bring a Molotov cocktail through a checkpoint, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: Israeli police arrested a Palestinian youth who attempted to stab an Israeli yeshiva student in central Jerusalem on June 20, according to Israeli newspapers.

-- Arrests: Israeli police arrested two Palestinians June 20 for allegedly throwing three Molotov cocktails at the Bet Orot Institute on the Mount of Olives, according to Palestinian newspapers, but no injuries or damage resulted.

-- Attacks: Palestinian gunmen affiliated with al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades fired at an Israeli car near Qalqiliya June 20, according to Palestinian newspapers, but no injuries resulted

-- Attacks: Palestinian militants threw four Molotov cocktails at Israeli cars northwest of Ramallah on June 20, but no injuries resulted, according to Israeli radio.

-- Incursions: The IDF entered and imposed a curfew on Bayt Furik village, near Nablus, on June 20, and searched houses but left without making arrests, according to Palestinian security sources.

3. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA President Abbas and Israeli PM Sharon met in Jerusalem

June 21 to discuss the security situation, prisoner releases, city handovers, freedom of movement, home demolitions in Jerusalem, and Israeli settlement expansion, according to Palestinian media.

Gaza

14. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that two Palestinian youths were injured June 21 in Khan Yunis during an exchange of fire between IDF soldiers and Palestinians militants.

-- Injury: The IDF reported that one Palestinian was lightly injured June 20 by IDF soldiers stationed in an IDF outpost northwest of Khan Yunis who opened fire after being targeted by a Molotov cocktail.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that, in addition to the policeman reported wounded in the June 20 SitRep, a female passerby was also shot and seriously injured June 20 in an altercation between two families in Jabaliya. Several of the battling family members were injured by sticks and clubs and were admitted to hospital, according to UNRWA.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired a total of 15 mortar shells in seven separate attacks in the Gaza Strip June 20-21. Mortar fire was particularly heavy over night near Netzarim, following the funeral of a man shot and killed by IDF soldiers June 20 for approaching too close to the settlement's border fence.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants launched a total of six shooting attacks on IDF and Israeli settler targets June 20-21.

-- Explosions: The IDF reported that IDF soldiers found and safely deactivated an IED near the Erez Crossing June 20.

15. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 21, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open June 20, and 4,375 laborers and 432 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed June 20.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers June 21, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open June 21.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures June

21.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed June 21. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.

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